

GRIMSBY PROBUS NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2026

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OUR
NEXT
MEETING

Tuesday March 17 @ 10:00 a.m.

Speakers: Ian Howcroft, Skills Ontario Chief Executive Officer, and Paul Clipsham, Director of Skills Ontario Stakeholder Relations.



Skills Ontario is a not-for-profit organization that inspires youth to pursue careers in Skilled Trades and Technologies' **Ian Howcroft** is an action-oriented leader and decision maker with a focus on customer needs and service. One who can lead a team and is able to build consensus to maximize and leverage strengths of team members to the overall benefit of the organization. Strong background and interest in advocacy, government relations, public policy, legal/regulatory issues, administrative law and human resources.

Paul Clipsham is a graduate of Western Ontario University and has a post graduate diploma in International Business Management from Niagara College of Applied Arts & Technologies. He leads communications and partnership development activities for the organization, and works closely with corporate sponsors, government, education partners and other stakeholders to achieve a common objective of addressing the skills gap by promoting rewarding careers in skilled trades and technologies.



FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PROBUS ALERT!

At the present time our PROBUS Club membership is low. We are in dire need of a new Secretary, and members to serve on the Events Committee.

We urge each member who is not on the Management Executive or Committees to consider to serve in one of the needed positions.

To have a successful PROBUS Committee we need you! For Information talk to John Davis, Peter Zwart or John Murphy.

Membership Committee



Our Grimsby PROBUS Men's Club has 51 members. **Increasing our membership is important. It needs the help of all the members. Together we thrive, and friendship, fellowship, and fun are key as we keep our minds active, expand interests and enjoy new friends. We encourage all to invite a family member, retired or semi-retired professional, business friend, or neighbor to our next meeting. Together we can make it happen.**

Program Committee Report of the February 17 meeting by John Davis



On February 17, before the meeting started, we enjoyed a slideshow of events showing pictures of members taken by Peter Zwart. As the meeting was called to order, **Ron Mauro** introduced our speaker, **Daniel Vieira** from **Parasport Ontario**

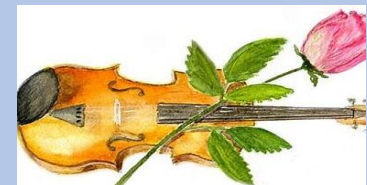
Daniel offered a definition of disability that recognizes the interaction between a person and his or her environment. Parasports are "parallel" sports that adapt athletic activities for people with physical or intellectual disability, whether for recreation, fitness, or competition. Daniel reviewed the mission and variety of activities conducted by Parasports Ontario. Some of the activities include organization of the Niagara Sledge Hockey League, publishing Parasports magazine, holding an annual golf tournament, and supporting a resource centre. More information can be found at: <https://parasportontario.ca>. Ron thanked Daniel and gave him a donation from our PROBUS club.



MARCH is the third month of the year in both the Julian and Gregorian calendars. March used to be the first month of the year until 1752. It is one of seven months that have 31 days. March was named for Mars, the Roman god of war who was also regarded as a guardian of agriculture. March, this year, has four Fridays and Saturdays and five Sundays. Spring comes on March 20. Sometimes Easter comes in March, but this year it comes in April. However, these are the special days to celebrate:



*The March wind roars
Like a lion in the sky,
And makes us shiver
As it passes by.
When winds are soft,
And the days are warm and clear,
Just like a gentle lamb,
Then spring is here*
Author Unknown

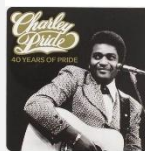


Stradivarius violins, cellos, and guitars are among the most treasured musical instruments in the world. Crafted during the seventh and eighteenth centuries, the pieces are rare and invaluable. Something so precious deserves the utmost care. So when a Stradivarius cello – worth \$20 million – fell off a table during a photo shoot (place not mentioned) it was truly shocking and should have been handled with more care.

Internet info

Program Committee cont'd

Dennis D'Alessandro shared trivia by asking who the Black singer was who appeared for the first time at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry in the late 1960s. The answer that one of our members correctly gave was Charlie Pride. Frank Trivieri commented that one of Charlie Pride's producers was the grandfather of a Grimsby neighbour, Lee Jenkins Bradley.



David Shaw led the business meeting. John Murphy encouraged volunteers to help develop a spring event, and Larry Pearson asked for extra hands on the House Committee while Merv Page is away.

Murray Clarke described the coming speakers from March to June.

March 17 - Skills Ontario

April 21 - Cognitive ageing

May 19 - Audiology

June 16 Sue-Ann Staff Winery

September - December have also been planned, even January 2027

Daylight Savings Time



No doubt you have turned your clocks ahead at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday March 8, 2026, As daylight saving time (DST) strikes again.

In North America and Australia, the convention of setting our clocks ahead one hour in the spring and behind one hour in the fall is properly known as "Daylight Saving Time." For whatever reason, we've developed a habit of referring to it conversationally as "Savings Time," plural. Britons refer to DST as "Summer Time," while in Italy, the practice is called "Ora Legale."

Thanks to *An Economical Project*, a satirical essay **Benjamin Franklin** wrote in 1784 urging Parisians to adopt an earlier sleeping schedule, the U.S. Founding Father is often credited with "inventing" daylight saving time. Actually, that honor belongs to **William Willett**, a British builder. While on an early morning horseback ride on the outskirts of London in 1905, Willett theorized that if the United Kingdom moved its clocks forward by 60 minutes between April and October, Britons would be able to enjoy more sunlight. Willett spent much of his own personal fortune trying to persuade British Parliament to embrace the idea, but he died in 1915 without seeing it happen.



Germany introduced daylight saving time (DST) in 1916 to help conserve energy during World War I. Although it was the first country to officially adopt DST, some Canadian regions were using the practice even earlier. For instance, on July 1, 1908, people in Port Arthur, Ontario—now part of Thunder Bay—were the world's first to set their clocks forward by an hour. Regina, Saskatchewan began DST in 1914 and it quickly became popular among locals; Winnipeg joined in 1916. While Germany helped spread DST's popularity, Canadians were actually ahead of the trend and beat them to the punch.

Changing the clocks may be standard practice across much of Canada, but not all countries observe daylight saving time. Countries along or below the equator, for instance, don't implement time shifts since daylight hours rarely change from season to season. Much of Asia and Africa opt out of DST as well, as do Iceland and parts of Australia. Closer to home, Arizona, Hawaii, and regions of Quebec and Saskatchewan choose not to observe DST either. There's one exception, however: even though Antarctica has no daylight in the winter and 24-hour daylight in the summer, research crews living in the area observe DST to communicate with their home bases.



When the United States passed the Uniform Time Act in 1966, it gave rise to the myth that the extra daylight would give farmers more time to harvest their produce in the morning. In reality, it has the opposite effect, and farmers tend to have been the loudest critics of DST over the past several decades. One of the main reasons DST picked up steam in North America after the World Wars was because department stores lobbied for the practice. Why?



Well, more daylight means more business: commuters leaving work while the sun is still shining. are more inclined to shop in that time.

March 13 Biker Rodeo

I am not sure what you know about Friday March 13, but when it falls this year on that day it is a biker rodeo, and anyone who is a biker heads off to the small town of Port Dover, Ontario. Thousands spend the day showing off their bikes, eating and hanging out with people who have a shared interest in motorcycles.



MARCH 2026

Birthdays

Bud Barkwell - 02 Rick Quirk - 15
Don Roberts - 21 Al Straitton - 16
David Shaw - 20

Anniversaries

Jim & Margaret Bowman - 16

Fun & Philosophy

APRIL 2026

Birthdays

Mike Firmin - 04 Carl Kovacs - 15
Dave Wilson - 21 Peter Zwart - 19

Anniversaries

Murray & Isabel - 09
Dave & Jennifer - 21



MARCH 17

The Irish are always known for their humor. Murphy approached Mulligan's bar. On the step outside he was accosted by a Nun, Sister Marie, who said: "Surely a fine man like yourself is not going into this den of iniquity? Surely you're not going to waste your hard earned cash on the devil's brew. Why don't you go home and feed and clothe your wife and children.

"Hang on, Sister," sputtered Murphy, "how can you condemn alcohol out of hand. Surely it is wrong to form such a rash judgement when you've never tasted the stuff."

"Very well," said Sister Marie, "I will taste it just to prove my point. Obviously, I can't go into the pub, so why don't you bring me some gin. Oh, and just to camouflage my intent, maybe you should bring it in a cup not a glass.

"Ok," said Murphy and into the bar he breezed.

"I'll have a large gin." He said to the barman, "and can you put it in a cup?"

"My," said the barman, "that nun's not outside again, is she?"

So They Say!

"Endeavor to be always patient of the faults and imperfections of thine own that require forbearance.

If thou are not able to make thyself which thou wishest how canst thou expect to mold another in conformity to thy will "

Thomas A.Kempis (1380 - 1471)



Have you talked with one of your family, friends or neighbours about the Grimsby PROBUS Men's Club? How you heard about it, went to a meeting and became a member? And how you have enjoyed its programs, and your friendships made?

Do It Now!



Let them know that together we thrive, and friendship, fellowship and fun are key as we keep our minds active, expand interests and enjoy new friends.

PROBUS is a local, national, and international association of retired people who come together in non-political, non-sectarian, non-profit autonomous clubs which provide regular opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances, with similar levels of interest, make new friends, and maintain and expand their interests.